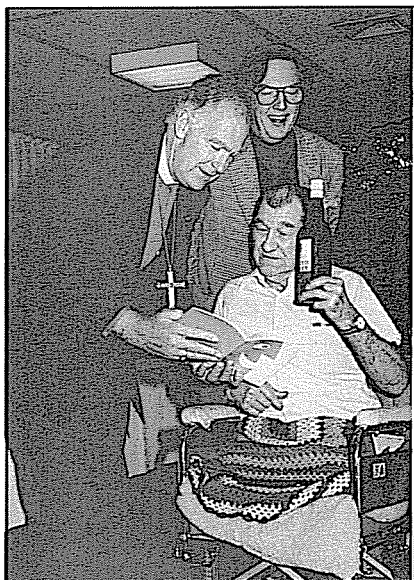


A LOOK AT OUR PAST

More than 70 people turned out to Sambell Lodge during St Laurence Week to attend the launch of "All in Good Spirit", a book which takes a light-hearted look at the history of the Brotherhood through the eyes of staff, volunteers and those they sought to help.

The book, which commemorates 60 years of service by the Brotherhood to Melbourne's underprivileged and disadvantaged, was launched by former Executive Director, Archbishop Peter Hollingworth. Archbishop Hollingworth commissioned the book prior to his appointment to Brisbane.

According to Archbishop Hollingworth, the book has been written to show the human side of the Brotherhood. He said the book reflects the quirkish humour and spirit of life within the Brotherhood which are



Archbishop Peter Hollingworth at the launch with Author, Tony de Clifford and Sambell resident, Jack Woods.

essential qualities of a caring and humane welfare organisation.

One story tells of the Brotherhood's founder, Fr Gerard Tucker, personally planting many of the 50,000 trees at St Laurence Park, Lara, a settlement for retired older people. He would prod the ground every 10 feet and instruct his assistant to plant a tree.

"Once, he got so excited that he planted right around a new block of flats - encircling the plumber's truck. I had to dig up 12 trees so the plumber could go home," recalls his assistant Neville Brooke.

"All in Good Spirit" is available from any Brotherhood Shop and is priced at \$6.99 (or complete coupon on page 3). All proceeds from the sale of the book will contribute to the ongoing work of the Brotherhood.

SCHEME TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

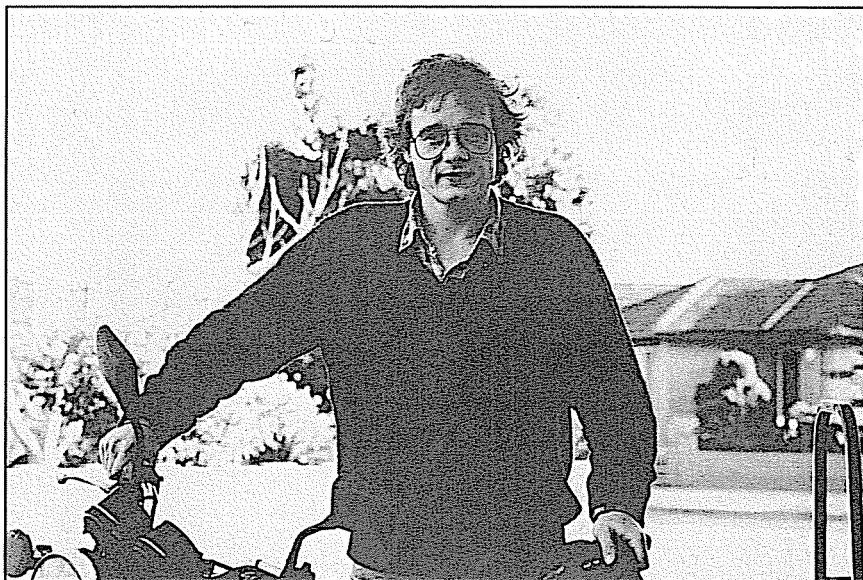
The Brotherhood of St Laurence, together with the Whittlesea Family Services Centre, has commenced an early intervention scheme for young people on a two year experimental basis in an attempt to stem the tide of youth homelessness in the Whittlesea area.

The trial project is being funded by the Brotherhood's Family Services program. The preventative scheme is designed to assist families in resolving conflicts with young people who risk premature displacement from the family home.

Whittlesea has one of the highest rates of population growth of any suburban area with a higher than average level of home mortgages and young families.

One in three of the population is under the age of 17 years and fifty percent of the population is under the age of 25 years. The area lacks recreational and social activities, has poor public transport and the lowest level of school retention of all surrounding municipalities. These issues place significant stress on the family unit. Furthermore, the North-east region has a large number of young people on statutory orders (wardship, supervision orders). 1988 figures show 642 young people on orders, comprising 10.9% of the statewide population.

According to Youth Counsellor, Peter Burchell, the scheme focuses on resolution through individual family counselling as well as group work. Where it is not



Peter Burchell

possible for a young person to continue living at home, his role is to ensure that moving out of home is timely, planned and with some spirit of goodwill.

"In many cases, we work with both the parents and the young person and build some parameters based on respect and trust. This is important, as the success of the final resolution will rely on good communication.

"Through support and advocacy for the young person and understanding of the issues concerning the parents, we aim to establish common ground for an agreement which is mutually beneficial and constructive," he said.

The service is being operated from the Whittlesea Family Services centre in Ruthven Street, Lalor and works closely with family and financial counsellors, youth housing program, Skillshare, local government workers and other agencies.